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Weather Bureau

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Nebr. Dept. of Agr. & Economic Development
Division of Agr'l. Statistics
Agricultural Extension Service
of Nebr. College of Agriculture

NEBRASKA WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP REPORT

Release 3/28/66

Week Ending 3/28/66

WEATHER The unseasonably warm spring-like weather of the previous week continued through Monday with temperatures in the 60s, but a severe blizzard hit the State on Tuesday the 22nd.

At most places the precipitation began as rain and turned into sleet or freezing rain before finally changing into snow. Thunderstorms were common during the change in weather and hail was reported at some sites. The snow was accompanied by gale winds that piled it into huge drifts, but most of the top soil had received a good wetting before the snow began. Temperatures dropped into the teens during the snowfall and the blowing and drifting snow lowered visibility to near zero, roads became blocked and power lines fell.

The lowest temperatures occurred Wednesday night and Thursday morning. The mercury dropped out of the teens at nearly all stations and reached zero or below in the west-central portion of the State. Temperatures rebounded into the 40s and 50s by Friday afternoon and the snow melted rapidly. Mean temperatures for the week averaged from near normal in the Panhandle to 4 to 7 degrees below normal elsewhere.

CROPS The severe storm of March 22 and 23 caused some loss of livestock and halted field operations in all parts of the State. The loss of livestock was generally limited to the very young, particularly those born during the storm. The feeding and care of all livestock was complicated in several areas by the loss of electrical power for an extended period.

Spring field work was halted across the entire State on Tuesday. Prior to that, farmers had made much progress with fertilizing and early seedbed preparation. A limited acreage of oats and spring barley has been sown. The planting of sugar beets in the Upper Platte is proceeding ahead of normal. Seeding of potatoes is expected to begin in that area if weather conditions permit. Slightly less than an average of 2-1/2 days were favorable for field work in Nebraska last week.

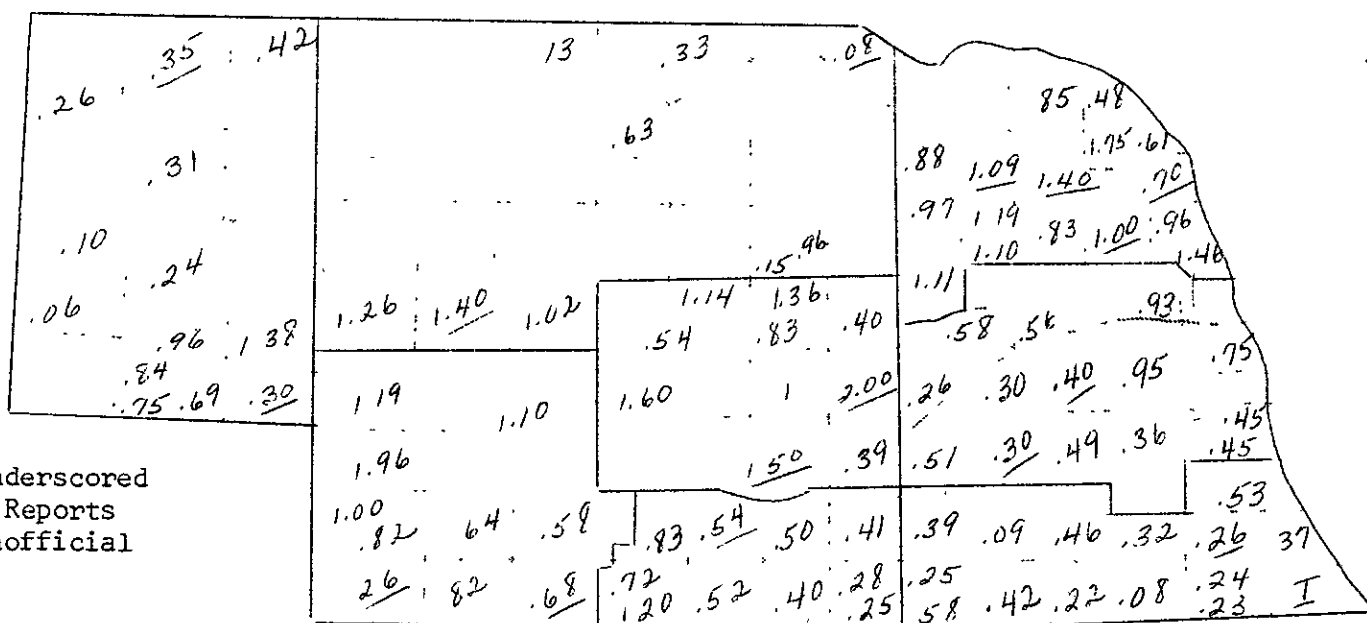
Winter wheat had begun to make some growth, particularly in southern counties, but the development slowed considerably during the latter part of the week as cold temperatures prevailed. Soil moisture conditions appear to be quite favorable across the State. All areas report at least adequate supplies of subsoil moisture and nearly all counties report adequate surface soil supplies at present. A few counties in southeastern Nebraska report local surface soil moisture deficiencies.

LIVESTOCK The care and feeding of livestock became very difficult in several areas during and after last week's storm as a result of power lines being knocked out, leaving many heating, feeding, and water systems out of operation. There were some death losses of livestock, particularly newborn animals, caused by exposure to the storm. Interruptions of routine feeding and care had a considerable effect on livestock production rates.

WEATHER BUREAU TELEGRAPHIC REPORT OF PRECIPITATION FOR WEEK ENDING MARCH 27, 1966

East		Central		West	
Grand Island	.42	Burwell	.15	Chadron	----
Lincoln	.41	North Platte	1.10	Imperial	1.00
Norfolk	1.19	Valentine	.13	Scottsbluff	.02
Omaha	.75			Sidney	.84
Sioux City	.61				

Underscored
Reports
Unofficial



HIGHEST AND LOWEST TEMPERATURE (Highs for 24 hours ending at 12:01 a.m., and
lows for 12 hours ending at 6:00 a.m., CST)

		March													
		21st		22nd		23rd		24th		25th		26th		27th	
		Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min
NW	Chadron	56	31	31	11	27	10	55	21	52	18	56	29	63	27
	Scottsbluff	60	30	30	11	35	14	60	26	53	23	61	31	65	31
	Sidney	61	28	29	6	32	6	51	28	52	22	56	31	65	28
NC	Burwell	61	41	56	14	22	2	36	19	45	22	46	25	53	28
	Valentine	62	39	39	12	20	2	39	26	45	21	46	23	55	30
NE	Norfolk	61	40	40	16	20	8	27	12	43	28	36	26	44	28
	Sioux City	64	41	44	27	25	11	26	14	44	28	36	25	45	27
CEN	Grand Island	64	45	45	18	29	11	39	25	53	25	46	29	54	30
EC	Lincoln	57	46	45	19	26	13	34	25	49	30	36	28	47	29
	Omaha	54	43	47	20	22	10	27	18	44	29	41	30	45	27
SW	Imperial	63	31	33	12	30	3	38	22	43	21	53	28	57	29
	North Platte	63	37	39	13	27	2	34	17	45	20	45	26	54	31

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
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